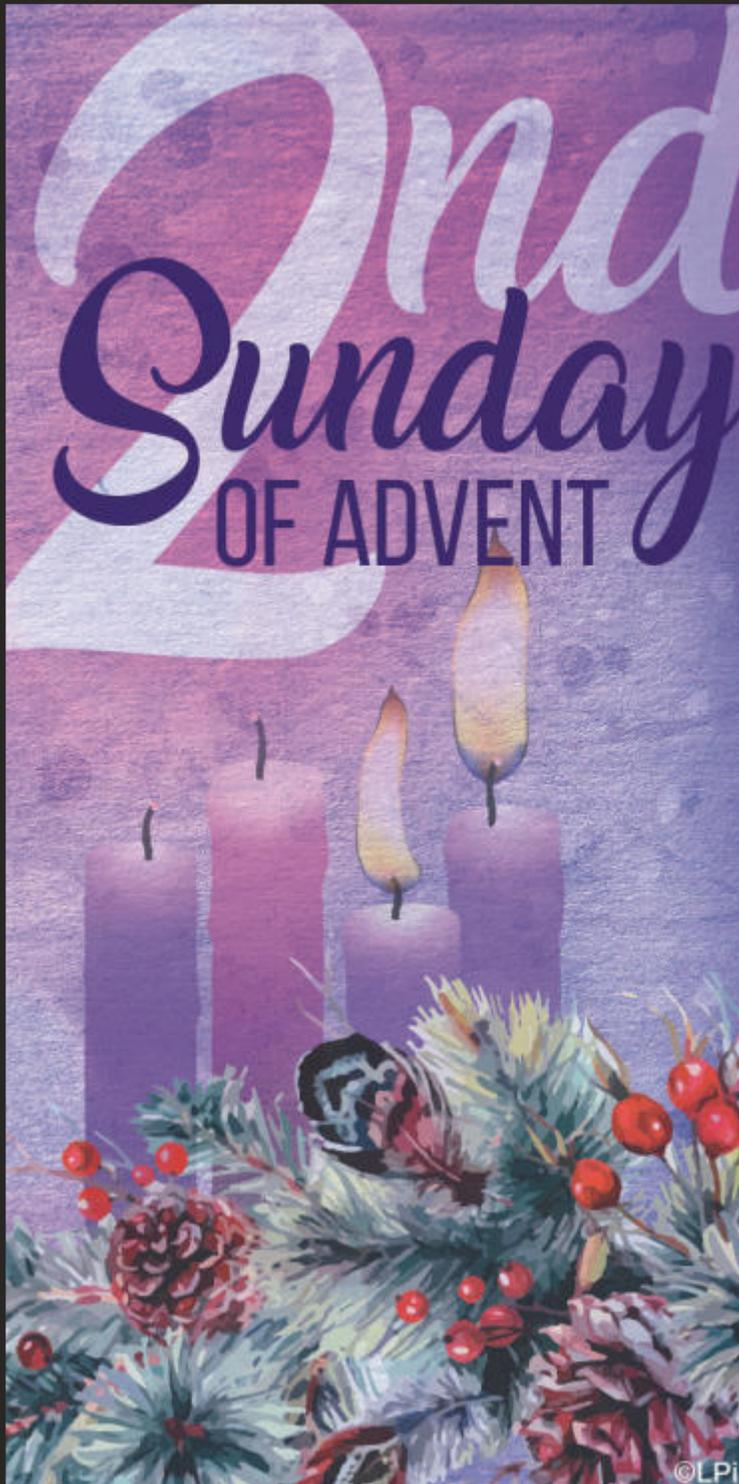


ST. KIERAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 6, 2020: The Second Sunday of Advent



Second Sunday of Advent ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath, like many of our customs at Christmas traces its origin to pre-Christian times when candles were lit during the winter to the "sun-god" asking for light. It was the Lutherans who started the Advent wreath as a Christian custom. The word "advent" comes from the Latin term for arrival or "coming." It is the season when we await the coming of the Lord in time and at the end of time.

The Advent wreath usually has four candles, three purple and one pink to match the color of the vestments of the week. The candles are lit on the Sundays of Advent. The first candle, called the Prophets' Candle, is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, then the second candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, is lit on the second Sunday along with the first. On the third Sunday of Advent a pink candle, called the Shepherds' Candle, is lit representing "Rejoice" Sunday, and then the fourth candle, called the Angels' Candle, is lit on the last Sunday of Advent. Sometimes a white candle is placed in the center of the wreath and is called the Christ candle. Sometimes the flame from that candle is used to light the others. In some parishes, the white candle remains unlit until Christmas Eve.

A different explanation of the meaning of the candles can sound like the greetings we use in our Christmas cards. This explanation says that the candles represent "hope," "love," "joy," and "peace." For this reason the wreath can also be used during the Christmas celebrations but with candles that are all white.



Mallia's Moments

A Gospel reflection from Father Joe and an update on upcoming events happening around the parish

Happy Second Sunday of Advent! On a normal year, I would not be here this weekend, I would be in Malta celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, but since travel to Malta is not possible, I am here with you, and I am happy to share this special day here at St. Kieran.

Several years ago, I was appointed a Canon by the Archbishop of Malta at the church of the Immaculate Conception in Cospicua Malta, which is my mother's family's home parish and where I began my life. As part of the honor of being a Canon, I am urged to return to celebrate the feast with the other Canons and the people of the parish. This is the first year since becoming a Canon that I will not be able to be there. The natural question is, what is a Canon?

Certain parishes in Europe are given the distinction of being "collegiate" parishes. It is a designation given to the parish by the Pope, because of its importance or significance in a diocese. As a result of the title given to the parish, the priests of the parish are named "canons". These priests used to serve as advisors to the bishop and would also run the diocese when the bishop died or retired. They also had the distinction of submitting names of a new bishop to the Pope. They also had specific obligations that they had to observe as a group of canons, most importantly praying together for the local and universal church. Because of their connection to the local bishop, the canons were given the honor of wearing some of the episcopal insignia, such as a mozzetta, a pectoral cross and a ring. The canons wear these during processions and other special events. I may be dressed this way during Christmas and Easter for example.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is an important day in the life of the Church. Often misunderstood, the feast recalls that Mary was born without sin in anticipation of her saying "yes" to being the Mother of Jesus. It has nothing to do with the conception of Jesus!

Mary is the perfect disciple. She was the first to hear of the coming of the messiah and at every moment of her life, she responded the same way as on the day the angel came to her; she always said yes to God. It is that example of faithfulness that leads us to hold Mary in such a place of honor. No other disciple has always said yes to the Lord's call in their lives.

God knowing that Mary would respond with a "yes" to being the Mother of the savior, God freed her from original sin so that as a spotless vessel, she would be worthy of bringing forth the spotless Lamb of God. In the feast of the Immaculate Conception, we encounter the plan that God has for all of us, to be vessels of Christ to the world and freed from sin, worthy vessels of the world's salvation.

As we share in the joy of this feast, let us call upon Mary our mother and ask her to join in our prayers before the Lord, that we too may always answer "yes" to all that God calls us to in this life and to be worthy vessels of Christ in the world. God bless you all.

Continued on page 3

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE REQUESTING PRAYER

Names will remain on our sick list for 6 weeks. After 6 weeks contact the Parish Office if you wish to place the name back on the list. Names will remain on our military list for 1 year.

SICK LIST

*Kathleen Brest
Richard Connor
Carla Daniels
Ken DeNeweth
Jack Devereux
Sean Devereux
Angelo Evangelista
Francesca Evangelista
Tom Fortin
Nancy Gorski
JoAnn Gozdor
Michael G. Hessen
Richard Jakubec
Kevin Klott
Betty Kuntz
Jesse Malczyk
Alice Mirochna
Jim Nagy
Rose Nagy
Ernie Nofz
William Olszewski
Mike Powers
Tony Rallo
June Sadowski
Jerry Schroeder
Ed VanOverbeke*

MILITARY LIST

*Bill Boeve-A
Joseph Deagan-N
Brian Hasse—N
Spenser Horwedel-AF
Mike Kwasnik-N
Rick Kwasnik-N
Daniel Otten-A
Joseph Pellerito—CG
Capt Steven Pickett-M
Jacob Risner-A
Patrick Roberts-A
Scott Socia-AF*

MALLIA'S MOMENTS (continued)**Will you serve?**

As we contemplate the willingness of Mary to respond to God, we may want to pray and ask God if we are being called to be servants in the parish. Is God calling you to be an altar server, Lector, Eucharistic Minister or Usher? We are in need of people to respond to these liturgical ministries.

Since you are coming to mass anyway, it would be just as easy to give of yourself to helping the community pray and worship the Lord. To be a Lector, Eucharistic Minister or Usher, you must have received your Confirmation. All of these ministries are open to people of all ages and genders who are willing to take up the responsibility of serving. If you have questions about how to join and be trained, please contact the parish office. We really do need you to join in today. Thank you.

Verso Alto- Young Adult Group

Just a reminder that this Wednesday December 9th, the group will be meeting again, but this time at the church. We will meet at the same time of 7 pm and the parish will be providing the food. All you are asked to do is bring your own drink and if you want, to wear a colorful or seasonal sweater. I hope that you will be there, even if you have not been here in the past and you are always welcome to bring a friend or two. All those who have graduated high school to the age of 40 are welcome. I hope to see you there.

Christmas Mass/Feast of the Holy Family

As previously stated and at the direction of the Archbishop of Detroit, you are only required to attend Mass once over the four-day holiday weekend this year only! So, you can attend one of the five Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, or one of the four Masses on Saturday or Sunday to fulfill all your obligations. This should also help with keeping the number of people at any one Mass within a socially safe number. Thank you for your participation.

Have a great week and remember, God is faithful.



On December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day also holds a very special memory for me – it is my Grandpa Rosario's birthday. If he were still with us today, Grandpa would have been 122 years old! I think of him often and miss him much, but I am so thankful for his coming to this country and starting the family from which I have descended. Thank you, Grandpa and, God love you!

For many, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the hardest to believe of all the Church's teachings. The idea of Mary having been completely sinless can be hard to believe and even misinterpreted. That's why knowing how to explain it to skeptics is so important. Let's start with some background. Pope Pius IX infallibly defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, 1854: "The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the very first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin." (Ineffabilis Deus, Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX on the Immaculate Conception). What exactly does that mean? It means that, from the moment she existed, Mary was preserved from original sin.

Why was She given this privilege? Because of her connection to our Lord. She was his Mother and at the same time he was her Savior. As Catholics, we believe that Mary was "proactively" redeemed. In other words, she received the fruits of Christ's redemption prior to her conception. Remember that our concept of time is not like God's concept — or governance — of time. With him all things are possible, and he has the power to extend redemption to Mary before she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. The Church also teaches that Mary was free from personal sin as well, because her nature was spotlessly incorrupt as result of her Immaculate Conception.

If you still think this is hard to believe, perhaps this will make it more reasonable: Jesus Christ is the God-Man, the Word Incarnate, God's only begotten Son; He is All-Powerful, All-Knowing, All-Perfect, and is opposed to sin in all forms. How then, could he have been conceived and born from an imperfect womb that had been touched by sin? This, in fact, would be truly hard to believe.

Hope to see you at Mass!

Peace,

Deacon Russ

Living Faith

THE

COMING SOON!

WEEKLY DISCUSSION/FAITH SHARING GROUP
 on the book:
*"More Than You Could Ever
 IMAGINE"*

By Bernie Owens. SJ

Fr. Bernie Owens fulfills his goal of providing a rich and comprehensive description of our spiritual journey toward transformation into God. We are offered a glimpse of what we shall become, both individually, and as a human race transformed in Christ.

*Introductory meeting, Thursday, January 21st
 6:30pm-7:30pm in the green room.*

Discussion group will continue January 28th
 6:30pm-8:00pm for 8 weeks.

*Course will be offered both in-person with limited seating
 and virtually.*

Contact Susan Weyland
 at (586)781-6515 or sue@stkieran.org
 extension 112.

THIS WEEK IN FAITH FORMATION:

Faith Formation families are looking forward to the birth of Christ. During this season of Advent, they have been preparing their hearts for Jesus.



We continue to be connected with our growing faith. Faith Formation families shine the light of Jesus by their examples of Christian values that they keep in their homes.

Flat Jesus is helping us to learn about different areas in the church. Tune in to the Facebook page to see where He has been!



Alex and Anna took Flat Jesus down to the Rochester lights!

The Gospel For All Ages...Family Catechesis

Take the Challenge!

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Second Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8



QUESTIONS:

Who have been forerunners to your faith: family members, teachers, friends, saints?

ABOUT THE GOSPEL:

John the Baptist baptized with water as a symbol that the people were leaving their old, sinful ways behind.

IN CHURCH:

If you are tempted to talk during Mass, remain silent and focus on preparing your heart for God.

FAMILY PRAYER:

Lord, please help us to prepare not only for Christmas celebrations, but also for your arrival in our hearts.
 Amen.



Believe. Grow. Share.

What is Advent?

Advent, the four week period before Christmas, is a time of waiting, a time of hope and an opportunity for just taking time. It is a time for stillness and listening and of thinking about the wonders of God’s love in our hearts and lives. Advent is also a time for reflecting on and renewing our longing for the Lord’s presence among us. It is a time for waiting for His gentle touch, His breath of life and His call to growth in faith, prayer, and service. Advent is a time of waiting to be made more fully one with the Lord, a time of waiting to outgrow selfishness and a time to grow in His light and peace.

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SKY

Saint Kieran Youth

This year, SKY has made a commitment to participate in a service opportunity monthly. It turns out, we get just as much out of our service as we hope the people we are helping do. It has been very fulfilling to try and make a difference in the lives of others, especially during these difficult times. Last time SKY met, we put together “candy gram care packages” for some young adults who were away at college, supposed to be away at college, or in the service. We filled aqua colored envelopes with a note written by Father Joe, all of the leftover Halloween candy that was donated by St. Kieran parishioners, and hand written Thanksgiving day cards. We hope it will bring some joy to those that receive them.

SKY will meet live, in the church, this Sunday, December 6 from 7-8:30 pm. A mask must be worn to attend. Any questions about SKY, please contact Jenny Greuling (Youth Minister) at 586-781-5759 ext. 119

Verso L’alto

Saint Kieran Young Adults

Join us this Wednesday, Dec. 9 at St. Kieran at 7:00 pm. It’s a holiday sweater party! St. Kieran will provide the pizza and salad and you bring your own drink. Anyone 18-40 is welcome. Feel free to come alone or bring friends.

Are you a Catholic young adult, looking to connect with others? Do you have ideas about getting Catholic young adults together and finding a space for them? Please contact Jenny Greuling with any ideas. 586-781-5759 ext.119.

A.S.K.S.

Active St. Kieran Seniors

Based on Michigan’s newest Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines announced Sunday, November 15, the monthly breakfast and lunch gatherings for Active St. Kieran Seniors are on hold. The “First Friday Breakfast” and “Lunch Around the World” will be rescheduled once restrictions are removed. Keep in mind, St. Kieran gym is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am– 4:30 pm. It is available for walking. Any questions, please contact Jenny Greuling, Senior Adult Ministry 586-781-5759 ext. 119.

Christian Service Matters

Christian Service: the act of doing things for God with a willingness in the heart.



Dear St. Kieran Parishioners,
I want to thank you, on behalf of all of us at Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan for the for the much appreciated Mercy in Action food donation to help support CCSEM! Your kindness and generosity are beyond appreciated. We look forward to working together in the future.

Gratefully Yours in Christ,
Isabella N. Agby

Stewardship Reflections

Pray. Share. Give.



"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.



Knights Corner

In light of today's work environment and health issues, this may be an opportunity for you, a family member and/or friend that is in need of a well paying and rewarding job in the Knights of Columbus. You will be the connection to family members when they become in need for life coverage, protection and assistance in the future.

Due to the growth in the area, the Knights of Columbus has a career opportunity available for an energetic, career minded person.

Career Opportunity:

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a Field Agent for a career opportunity representing their insurance program. They offer a complete benefits package with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please contact, Don M. Wesley FICF, General Agent, at 888-393-7539, or don.wesley@kofc.org

THE COLORS OF ADVENT

With the beginning of Advent, the environment in the church changes to violet, or purple. This can be the same violet that is used during Lent, but many parishes choose to use a different, brighter color. Violet became the Advent color when Advent was considered a penitential time of preparation for Christmas. That has changed and Advent is now considered a joyful time of expectation. Still a time of preparation, and a time for spiritual "putting our hearts in order," but not with the penitential aspect of Lent.

HOPE

The season of Advent reminds us that we live in between the times of Christ's first and second coming. And so "we wait in joyful hope." What are we waiting for? The second letter of Saint Peter gives us the answer. We wait for "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." We don't wait passively—vaguely hoping for heaven some day. We are called to "prepare the way of the Lord" in our own day. All worship leads to mission of some kind. How will your worship today lead you to the work of justice making? *Identify one specific action for this week: a donation to those in need, time spent at a community service center, or a letter written to someone who is homebound.*

THE THEME OF ADVENT

All the Old Testament readings for the season of Advent are messages of hope and promise. They come from prophets whose mission was to remind God's people that they were indeed "called by a promise of peace and justice." Perhaps questions we might ask ourselves are: "How do I say yes to the Lord's invitation?" "How do I put into daily practice what I hear God's Word saying?" "Which actions of mine flow from charity and which from justice?" The prophets remind us of a kingdom that is yet to come: a kingdom where there will be peace and justice for all. In some of the most beautiful poetry of the Bible, the prophets speak of that peace and justice that is the birthright of every person. The hopes and visions that God has for us, his chosen ones, is what we wait for. Each week, after the Our Father, the Presider prays, "... keep us free from anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ."

Christmas Card Winners!



Caleb Widdows



Tess Kelly

*****CHANGE TO YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS*****

In an effort to reduce costs, including printing and postage, we will now mail year end contribution statements *BY REQUEST ONLY*.

There are 3 ways to request a statement:

- Mail or drop the completed form in the offertory basket
- Email the office at jeanee@stkieran.org
- Phone 586.781.4901

Thank you for your support of the parish.

2020 Giving Statement

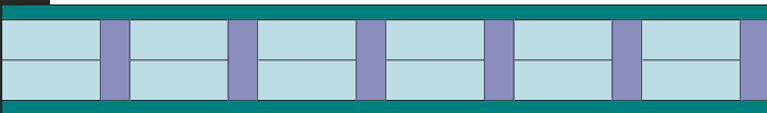
Name _____ Envelope # _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____

WEEKEND LITURGY SCHEDULE—DECEMBER 12/13 2020

Day/Time	Saturday 4:30 pm	Sunday 8:00 am	Sunday 9:30 am	Sunday 11:30 am
Mass Intentions	Paul Gruenewald By The Scanlan Foundation	Bill Mrdeza By Ralph & Pam Engler	Clarice Pawlicki By Ed & Marge DeChombeau ----- Dolores Churilla By Martin & Edna Kasiska	Regina Barcewicz By Josephine Saddington
Music	Carol Carabelli	Natalie Wienckowski	Jeff Bednar/ Praise Group	Adult Choir B
Lectors	Pam DeClercq Gary Miglio	Bev Jakubowski Ted Morand	Darlene Garcia Enzo Paglia	Maria Kayser Ken Mehr
Altar Servers	Team 12	Team 13	Team 1	Team 2



WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE

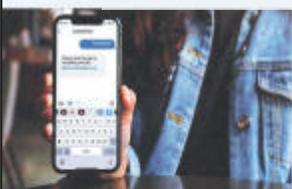
DECEMBER 7-11, 2020

Monday 7:00 pm Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Following Mass Lector: Darlene Garcia	Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Tuesday 8:00 am	Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday 8:00 am	For the "Special" Intention of the Donahue and Kloc Families by Laurie Donahue Mary Pagano by the Pagano Family
Thursday 8:00 am	For the "Special" Intention of Rocky Camaj by Lisa Shkreli
Friday 8:00 am	Paul Compagna by his wife, Patricia



ATTENTION ONLINE GIVING DONORS:

As a cost saving measure, we will discontinue mailing offertory envelopes to online givers. Rest assured we will still keep your envelope number in our system, but the parish will reap savings since we will no longer have to print or mail envelopes to you. If you would like to continue receiving envelopes, please let the office know. Thank you.



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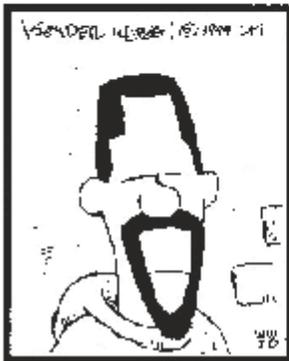
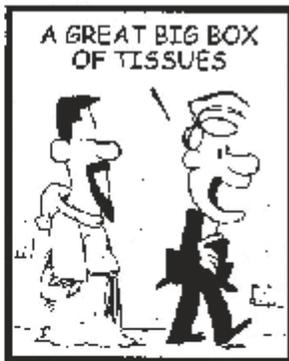
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GIVE VIA TEXT MESSAGE

1. Text Keyword "mistkieran" to 800-950-9952.
2. Click the link.
3. Complete your gift.

ST. KIERAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Daily Readings for the Week of 12/6

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Psalm 72: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Psalm 146: Lord, come and save us

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Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop

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48316

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Email: frjoe.mallia@gmail.com

ext 111

Deacon: Deacon Russ Ortisi

E Mail: DeaconRuss@stkieran.org

Parish Office: 586-781-4901

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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ext 114

E Mail: pat@stkieran.org

Director of Music: Catherine Thomas

ext 118

E Mail: catherine@stkieran.org

Youth/Young Adult/Senior Adult Minister:

Jennifer Greuling

ext 119

E Mail: Jenny@stkieran.org

Christian Service: Marilyn Floreno

ext 132

E Mail: marilyn@stkieran.org

Fran Zajac: fran@stkieran.org

ext 123

Evangelization/Outreach:

Marcia DiMambro

ext 128

Faith Formation - Religious Education:

586-781-6515

Secretary: Nancy Kicinski

ext 116

E Mail: nancy@stkieran.org

Absence Hot Line :

ext 135

Director K-5: Rose Churilla

ext 117

E Mail: rose@stkieran.org

Director 6-8: Sue Weyland

ext 112

E Mail: sue@stkieran.org

9th Grade Confirmation

Sue Weyland

ext 112

E Mail: sue@stkieran.org

Children's Sacrament Prep: Ann Larocca

E Mail: ann@stkieran.org

ext 125

Business Manager: Paula Klozik

ext 113

E Mail: business_manager@stkieran.org

Parish Secretary: Jeanee Snider

ext 110

E Mail: jeanee@stkieran.org

Maintenance Manager: Steve Mattei

ext 130

E Mail: steve@stkieran.org

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586-214 8923

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Dennis Jacks

586-580-2551

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Christine Albrecht

ext 131

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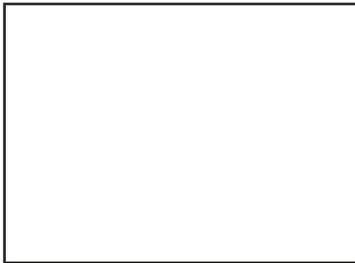
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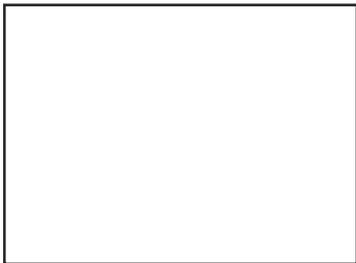
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